

**2008 - 2015 SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS
PUBLIC LAW 110-343
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

Name of Resource Advisory Committee: Prince William Sound
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):
Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2017

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| 2. Project Name: Valdez Invasive Plant Survey and Rapid Response | 3a. State: Alaska 3b. County(s): Valdez-Cordova |
| 4. Project Submitted By: Copper River Watershed Project | 5. Date: June 15, 2016 |
| 6. Contact Phone Number: 907-424-3334 | 7. Contact E-mail: danielle@copperriver.org |

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| 8. Project Location: Valdez | |
| a. National Forest(s): Chugach | b. Forest Service District: Cordova Ranger District |
| c. Location (Township-Range-Section) Entire City of Valdez: Townships 7-10N, Range 4-8W, many sections | |

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| <p>9. Project Goals and Objectives:</p> <p>In coordination with a Chugach National Forest botanist, we propose to conduct a comprehensive invasive plant survey, control up to three acres of high priority species if identified, and conduct education and outreach. Survey locations will include likely points of spread such as trailheads, parks, the airport, and boat launches. We will travel to Valdez twice during the 2017 field season for one week at a time. We will also focus on strengthening our existing partnerships and identifying new, Valdez community partners to continue this control work in the future.</p> |
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| <p>10. Project Description:</p> <p>a. Brief: (<i>in one sentence</i>)</p> <p>This project will survey and control invasive plants in Valdez while simultaneously establishing partnerships with business owners, land managers, and utility cooperatives in order to raise awareness on methods to reduce the spread of invasive plants and promote routine implementation of best practices for invasive plant control.</p> <p>b. Detailed:</p> <p>The successful identification and control of invasive plants requires a coordinated, multi-organizational approach. The Copper River Watershed Project aims to continue and broaden its invasive plants program to the area surrounding the City of Valdez, where currently there are no invasive plant control efforts underway. CRWP established an invasive plants program in 2011 in Cordova and the Copper River Basin; this program has since grown to include numerous partner agencies and results in the regular control of several high priority species in addition to routine surveying. This project will serve as a preliminary effort to incorporate the City of Valdez and surrounding areas into our program. We will plan travel arrangements, establish new partnerships with local City staff and other organizations, survey the town and likely points of spread, provide</p> |
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outreach materials to the community, and prepare a report on recommendations for future control of invasive species populations found in the area.

Inventory:

We will conduct an invasive plant survey at locations most likely to harbor infestations, including trailheads, roadsides, parks, and boat launches. The last recorded survey effort submitted to the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC) was in 2011; we will return to those sites for surveying as well. All data will be recorded on standardized AKEPIC data forms and submitted to the statewide database at the end of the field season for public access. Inventory and regular monitoring allows for documentation of the presence of invasive plant species as well as changes in geographic distribution and over time. The information gathered from this survey will be put into an integrated pest management plan that will allow for educated and targeted future mitigation of the most aggressive invasive plant species, and protect public lands surrounding the city from future infestations.

Control:

The following six high priority invasive plant species have been reported in the area: spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) and meadow hawkweed (*Hieracium caespitosum*). Control methods will be either manual or mechanical depending on the best management practices for each species. Some survey and control work was performed on the spotted knapweed several years ago but there have been no recent efforts to our knowledge. The integrated pest management plan will guide community organizations in effective eradication, control or containment measures for invasive species infestations in their area while protecting the surrounding habitats from future damage.

Education & Outreach:

Valdez is a gateway to both Prince William Sound and the Copper River Basin and receives significant tourism travel throughout the summer months. We will create and print rack cards for placement at local businesses including hotels, restaurants, and the Valdez Convention & Visitor's Center. We will also write two articles for the local newspaper, the Valdez Star, about invasive weeds in Valdez and methods to reduce spread. We will coordinate with the Prince William Sound Community College to determine interest in giving a community presentation about invasive weeds. We will also coordinate with the City of Valdez Parks and Recreation Commission and the Valdez Beautification Task Force to survey for invasive weeds at public recreation sites and in new construction areas.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Land Status: All

If Yes, specify: AK DOT&PF rights-of-way, City of Valdez, State, Federal, and private lands.

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

☐ Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

☐ Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.

☒ Restores and improves land health.

☐ Restores water quality

13. Project Type

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

☐ Road Maintenance

☐ Trail Maintenance

☐ Road Decommission/Obliteration

☐ Trail Obliteration

☐ Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):

☒ Soil Productivity Improvement

☒ Forest Health Improvement

☐ Watershed Restoration & Maintenance

☐ Wildlife Habitat Restoration

☐ Fish Habitat Restoration

☒ Control of Noxious Weeds

☒ Reestablish Native Species

☐ Fuels Management/Fire Prevention

☐ Implement CWPP Project

☐ Other Project Type (specify):

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Control of Noxious Weeds

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish

Acres of native species reestablished: 3

Acres of noxious weeds controlled: 3

Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 0.13

People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): 1,000

Direct economic activity benefit:

Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 4/1/2017

16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 9/30/2017

17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

Cordova Cooperative Weed Management Area, Forest Service Cordova Ranger District, Prince William Sound Community College, KCHU radio station, Valdez Star newspaper, City of Valdez (Parks and Recreation Commission, Beautification Task Force, etc.), utility cooperatives, contractors and Harris Sand & Gravel, and potential volunteers in the Valdez community.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

The survey and control efforts will help the community identify priority invasive plant species and the best management practices for control of each species. Additionally, our outreach efforts will raise awareness with locals and visitors. We will provide educational materials for future reference.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

Valdez is a gateway to Prince William Sound and its pristine wilderness habitat. Many people travel to and through Valdez destined for more remote locations. Controlling priority invasive plant infestations in the Valdez region may limit or prevent the spread of invasive plants to federal lands in Prince William Sound, Cordova, and on the Copper River Delta. Prevention is the most cost effective measure for invasive species management, greatly reducing costs of control in the future. If invasive plants

spread, they have the potential to reduce native plant diversity and degrade ecosystem health. This project will promote protection of healthy forest ecosystems by educating the public on invasive plant identification and control, as well as identifying priority locations for future survey and control efforts to maximize the benefit to susceptible healthy habitats on federal lands.

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| 20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contract | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Americorps | <input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): |

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber? ☐ Yes ☒ No

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| 22. Anticipated Project Costs |
| a. Title II Funds Requested: \$16,023 |
| b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring and surveying are at the core of this project. An initial survey of the area will be completed prior to conducting any control work. The survey will measure infestation size, percent infested and total canopy cover. After the control work is completed, the sites will be monitored using the same criteria; results will be compared to initial measurement to determine treatment efficacy.

- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring: Copper River Watershed Project
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k): \$1,307

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- ☒ Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
- ☐ Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Forest Supervisor

National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

| Item | Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution | Column B Requested Title II Contribution | Column C Other Contributions | Column D Total Available Funds |
|---|---|---|------------------------------------|---|
| a. Field Work & Site Surveys | | \$1,308 | | \$1,308 |
| b. NEPA/CEQA | | | | |
| c. ESA Consultation | | | | |
| d. Permit Acquisition | | | | |
| e. Project Design & Engineering | | | | |
| f. Contract/Grant Preparation | | | | |
| g. Contract/Grant Administration | | | | |
| h. Contract/Grant Cost | | | | |
| i. Salaries (includes payroll taxes & Workers' Comp. insurance) | | \$8,901 | | \$8,901 |
| j. Materials & Supplies | | \$1,350 | | \$1,350 |
| k. Monitoring | | \$1,307 | | \$1,307 |
| l. Other | | | | |
| 1. Partner Indirect Cost | | \$3,157 | | \$3,157 |
| m. Project Sub-Total | | \$16,023 | | \$16,023 |
| n. FS Indirect Costs | | | | |
| Total Cost Estimate | | \$16,023 | | \$16,023 |

NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.